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August 28, 1961

MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman, Special Group - General Taylor
FROM : Chairman, Special Working Group - Mr. Davis
SUBJECT : First Progress Report - August 10 - August 29, 1961

The Special Working Group of the Interdepartmental Coordinating Committee on Berlin reports below the substantive decisions which the Group has taken during the period from its formation, August 10, 1961 through its fourth meeting on August 29, 1961.

1. Approved the amended paper on Covert Propaganda and Political Action Plans in Connection with the Berlin Crisis dated August 18, 1961. This paper describes the five principal tasks to be undertaken through black and gray assets. In brief these are (1) explaining the communist threat to Berlin to non-communist audiences outside Germany, (2) inducing opposition to Khrushchev's aggressive plans in neutral nations, (3) alerting populations inside the Sino-Soviet Bloc to the threat of war and arousing resistance; (4) encouraging opposition to Khrushchev's plans among communist sympathizers outside the bloc and (5) encouraging support among anti-communist audiences everywhere. The paper identifies the principal assets, the principal approaches to be used, and lists the main themes to be used for each task.

2. Approved the proposal to improve radio and television broadcasts to East Germany by extending covert support to West Berlin and West German radio and television stations to make the East Germans aware of the support which exists for them in other areas of the world. This activity would complement and not compete with the activities of RIAS. It will be closely coordinated in the field with USIA.

3. Approved the plans for the 1961 trip to Germany of the Radio Free Europe Fund (formerly Crusade for Freedom). This is an annual affair which this year is scheduled for September 29 through October 8. There are 40 Americans associated with the fund raising campaign invited to participate. A side trip to Berlin on October 4, 1961 was approved as planned to be handled in a low key, with the proviso that developments might require its cancellation. The inclusion of some members of the Western European Advisory Committee was suggested.

4. Approved the transportation by CIA of appropriate radio equipment suitable for black broadcasting and the start of field planning for these programs. No recruiting in the field is authorized and plans for use of the equipment will be considered later.

~~5. (RFE Anti-War Broadcast Proposal)~~

~~6. (Exploitation of Sino-Soviet Differences in Connection with Berlin Crisis)~~

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